

MAR 6 1942

THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT

The Official Journal
of the Association of
Assistant Librarians

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THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS
(Section of the Library Association)

HON. EDITOR: W. B. STEVENSON

Hornsey Public Libraries

Announcements

STUDENTS are reminded that applications for the Revision Courses in classification and cataloguing must reach Mr. S. W. Martin, Carnegie Library, Herne Hill Road, S.E.24, by 20th February, after which date no application will be considered. These Revision Courses are intended only for students who have previously sat for the Intermediate Examination. In no circumstances will any other application be considered.

The index to the 1941 volume has been published this month and should have been forwarded with this issue to all subscribers. As a matter of economy, only 500 copies of the index have been printed. Members who wish to obtain copies should apply to Mr. S. W. Martin, the Honorary Education Secretary.

A meeting of the Association of Children's Librarians will be held on Sunday, 8th February, at Chaucer House, at 3 p.m. The speaker will be Mrs. Beatrice King, and the subject "Children and children's libraries in the Soviet Union."

ELECTION OF NATIONAL COUNCILLORS FOR 1942

There being no other nominations received, the following members are declared to have been elected:

Miss Stella P. Jacka, B.A., F.L.A. (Hornsey).

Miss Clare Madden, F.L.A. (Neasden).

E. M. EXLEY,

Hon. Secretary.

15th January, 1942.

The Library Assistant Tracking Them Down

André G. Shepherd

BETWEEN ten shillings and one pound is spent on overdue notices by the smaller type of library during one week. With the war this sum has increased while allowances have decreased. Thus instead of five copies of *Gone with the wind*, about 200 slips of paper are circulated among the reading public a week. What is their use and, more important, what is their effect? Anyone who has written these overdue cards for six months or more will have noticed that the same names appear month after month. Over 75 per cent. of cards written go to this type of borrower. What do these "old lags" say when the cards drop through their letter-boxes? From experience we must, I think, all candidly confess that their effect is very small. We all know the borrower who says, "What, late again, aren't I a naughty boy?" These people know that there is a fine accruing, and they know that it is rarely above sixpence. They intend to return the books when they feel like it and not before. They are known at every shop in the town as honest people, but too lazy to pay their bills on time. But that the books will come back is a certainty. It has been proved that 90 per cent. of books one day overdue will be back on the shelves within three weeks or a month. By that time four cards will have been sent out, four cards that might have better served their country by being used for bullets.

So, it is a waste of money, a waste of paper and, more important, a waste of time to send overdue notices for a book till it is a month overdue.

But, what of that residue, that 10 per cent. that lies beyond the sixpenny fine guides? Here are seen names of people who are not familiar, addresses which are, perhaps, no more than a heap of twisted concrete. It is no use sending notices to these people, for they may never receive them. In fact the majority come back with the Post Office stamp Undelivered for reasons stated—gone away. These are cases for the library detective, that energetic young person who cycles away in the morning and never comes back satisfied till he has tracked his borrower down. In America they have special detectives appointed for this full-time job, but perhaps crime is on a larger scale over there.

If libraries were nationalized this business of tracing lost borrowers would be simple. Every library would have a list of borrowers lost by other libraries. Should they present themselves at any library in England they would at once be confronted with the names of the books they had not returned to their home library. But under the present system, all we need are frontier posts to complete the picture. Many libraries do not

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only refuse to help others, but do all they can to decry them. The library must, therefore, rely on its own resources.

This 10 per cent. consists largely of people who have evacuated. The small number who give false addresses is not worth mentioning. Fortunately most people who evacuate return their books before they go or at least write explaining what has happened to them.

After a week or two of heavy bombardment, during which Petts Wood suffered rather heavily, over six thousand people left the town. Out of these the library had to call on over two hundred people within two months. By November there were only two dozen people untraced. To-day there are only eight. Although many libraries have probably experienced the same many may be interested to know how we accomplished this feat.

Early in September the library staff set out to retrieve its books, often with fighters overhead. This was incidentally an annoyance because many people went to their shelters, where it was difficult to approach them. Each borrower's house was visited, and then his neighbours' for six houses down on each side. Sometimes the borrower had thoughtfully put his address on the back door, but this was too rare. Neighbours were more helpful with cups of tea and gossip than with facts. Milkmen, bakers, grocers, etc., were stopped in the streets and asked about their late customers. More gossip but no address. We noticed that nearly everybody was most helpful and went out of their way to get us information. As one old lady said, she thought it to be the only way in which she could do her bit. Schools were asked where their pupils had gone to. A public-house was once consulted when a borrower whom we knew visited the place left us. After the Minister of Home Security's warning to people who left their homes to leave their keys with their wardens we visited every warden's post in the sector. Other people consulted were furniture removers and Building Societies, who proved the most useful allies of all.

I hope the mention of keys will not make people think that we ever resorted to housebreaking as a last resort. Once I saw a library book on a borrower's window sill. It was Dornford Yates' *Gale warning*, for which there was a long waiting list at the time. Yet for over a month we had to wait for that borrower to come back. What we said to her does not bear repeating.

Some idea of our perseverance may be gathered through some individual cases. A young couple had cleared out of a bungalow last September with three of our library books. The bungalow happened to be on the road one of the staff came to work by. Every day that house was kept under observation. It was not till January, while he was

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cycling to the library, that he saw smoke rising up from the chimneys into the morning air. The borrower had come back just for the day. Had it not been for his observation those books might never have seen the library again.

A family had left their house last August. Neighbours did not like them, so though they could furnish us with very interesting gossip, they could not tell us where they had gone to. At last we found out the school where the borrower's child was once taught. The dancing mistress seemed to think that her husband traded with the borrower. So we 'phoned the husband. He turned out to be more of a hindrance than a help, for he told us that unless he saw us personally he could not possibly divulge the name of one of his business friends. This line of approach closed down abruptly. Then this January we paid a routine visit to the house to see if anybody was there. A paper pinned on the front door gave his telephone number. He had at last thought of letting tradesmen and others know where he was. Judge our surprise when the answer to the 'phone call came from the Admiralty. That book is now back in our stock.

There have been many more cases just as interesting, and one perhaps a trifle uncanny. That was of a house whose three successive occupants, completely unrelated, in turn joined the library and, with one of our library books apiece, again in turn, vanished from the town. The present occupier is, fortunately, not a borrower.

I hope that these few examples will show the futility of spending over fifty pounds a year on overdue cards. Fine the "old lags," and fine them severely. Suspend them if they only understand the law of force. For the rest, find them wherever they have gone, to show all that the library never loses its books, to whatever part of the world they go. But overdues do not send unless you like fifty slips of paper better than a copy of *Gone with the wind*.

Books in the Services

J. DOVE

I WAS much impressed by the sentiments expressed by Mr. E. T. Bryant in his article which appeared in the September issue of the LIBRARY ASSISTANT. Sixteen months in the R.A.F. has convinced me that reading is well-nigh an impossibility. One hears much of books for the Forces and the opportunities for Service men to continue the studies they had embarked upon in civil life. But I regret to say this is sheer

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ideology; it is not fact. To most of its members, the R.A.F. is not a leisured service, although there are those in its ranks, as doubtless in other branches of H.M. Forces, who, by their uncanny ability to make themselves scarce when work is most pressing, impose on their conscientious colleagues added duties and responsibilities.

Of the five Stations on which I have had the experience of working, only one had a really good library service, which was nurtured by a padre whose lack of knowledge in administration was compensated by his flair for books and a keenness for seeing that every man and woman had a fair opportunity to take advantage of the Station Library. The week I left this aerodrome marked the opening of a new huge building, housing a modern cookhouse and a spacious mess on the ground floor, reading- and writing-rooms; and a room set apart for the library on the first floor, for which new oak furniture had been obtained, and in which a simplified card charging system was to be inaugurated. Nothing had been heard of the Service Libraries schemes and all the books obtained were novels, travel and biographical adventures. No books of interest to members of air-crews were amongst this otherwise good selection of popular books for the personnel at this lively Station in Bomber Command. In most cases, however, the airman preferred the popular weekly illustrated, which he could consult in those moments off-duty when no effort was necessary and relaxation the sole consideration.

Even when one serves with a unit situated in a town which provides an efficient library service, one is rarely able to avail one's self of the existing facilities, and even so, not by any means, to the fullest and widest extent (though the library in question has proved a reliable source for the solutions to a variety of queries, and it is surprising that officers and airmen alike never think of turning to the public library for information; they simply are alarmingly unaware of the capabilities of a good reference library). When are we going to adopt the slogan that "It pays to advertise"?

The reading of a Westerner, detective, or thriller demands some sub-conscious effort, whilst one inevitably loses all contact with the general book position and outstanding publications. Many are the titles I have noted, but few the ones I have even seen, owing to the lack of opportunity and the quietness to read a good book. But here I add a warm tribute to the way in which the Library Association and the Association of Assistant Librarians are maintaining contact with their members by the prompt and regular despatch of their respective journals, which are a real link in the interrupted careers of so many of their members.

In my present unit, which is purely administrative, various attempts have been made to establish a dramatic society; a reading circle; discus-

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sion groups, and a debating society, but each project has failed owing to the overlapping duties of the would-be members and the constant moving to and fro of airmen and Waafs. A commencement has been made quite recently in the formation of a library and a small, but sound, representative selection of books has been obtained from various publishers through Air Force Funds and from the Finsbury Barracks Book Service. The titles include Hearnshaw's *Sea power and empire*; Parker and Smith's *Modern Turkey*; Lewis' *Economic problems of to-day*; Cassell's *French-English* and *German-English Dictionaries*; the Oxford English dictionary—Fowler's ed.; Clapham's *Arithmetic*; *Maths. for engineers*; Kermode's *Mechanics of flight*; Wimperis' *Internal combustion engines*; *Meteorology for aviators*; *Admiralty handbook on wireless telegraphy*; De La Mare's *Pleasures and speculations*, etc. There is also an extensive selection of Penguins and Cherry Tree editions, supplied by the Finsbury Barracks and by local residents, mostly friends of the personnel of the unit. Despite a pet theory that the mass must be educated, whether they wish it or not, I have resigned myself to facts. The majority, practically the whole, only want two kinds of books—a good love-story or a good blood-curdling yarn of horror. Too many of us believe that if one struggles manfully to guide readers in their tastes, results will be forthcoming in no uncertain way. But this non-fiction opposed to fiction idea would be more unfruitful in the Service than it was amongst the civilian population. The story which demands no mental effort is obviously the most eagerly sought after.

And what of the young assistant or librarian whose enthusiasm has been so rudely shaken by events far beyond his control? The hum-drum life of the Forces is his lot now; the quiet, orderly atmosphere of the library is but a dream of yesterday. What of the things to come and how will he re-act to library service again? Will he be able to tolerate those committees who lower the rates by cutting his book-fund; who refuse point-blank to make up, even in part, the salaries of himself and his colleagues in the other branches of local government; and who consider a library could profitably be dispensed with for the duration? How much will he remember of administration, classification, and cataloguing, and the finer points of his job?

These, and many more questions will have to be faced in the future. It seems essential, that in those days to come, when peace is restored, refresher courses must be organized for the benefit of those whose endeavours in Librarianship have been temporarily frustrated.

But actions speak louder than words and our aim is, first, to help, each in our own small way, to win the war, and leave those of riper years and experience to plan the syllabus for the future revival and remodelling of Librarianship.

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F. J. KENNERBY

I was very interested in Miss Smith's article, "Books for the Forces," in the September issue of the LIBRARY ASSISTANT. Having been in Gibraltar for over a year now, I am unacquainted with book service conditions for the troops at home. Out here they are deplorable, but I don't suppose I should have been stirred to write of them but for the quoted extract from Captain Margesson's letter.

The offending words were:

"Overseas, libraries have been and are being established and the selection of books is done by experts."

Let me state the facts of "libraries for the Forces" in one overseas station—Gibraltar!

There is always a standing garrison here, which naturally is much larger now. In spite of this there is no established library for the troops and no sign of such a boon being granted.

In actual fact there is a fine, well-organized and well-housed Garrison Library here, which is, unfortunately, for the use of officers only, and so has no bearing on our case.

Small unit and section libraries are common. These are based on either donations from individuals or voluntary subscriptions, and are supplemented by books issued by the padre, which actually are books sent under the Forces' Libraries scheme.

In my very own unit of roughly one hundred and twenty men, the library book stock is just on two hundred volumes; of these one hundred and fifty were given by the padre. The librarian tells me that 10 per cent. is readable and the rest is "tripe."

I have yet to find an interesting work even among the readable 10 per cent., as they consist of thrillers and Westerns. In fact, most of the donated books which reach us are throw-outs, after the picking has been done elsewhere.

Note the selection by experts! Perhaps they have a library to stock for themselves somewhere.

The shame and irony of this sorry state of affairs is evident when a private library here, desirous of military support, is crippled and stagnating for lack of funds.

The Exchange and Commercial Library, to give it its correct name, has a sound book nucleus of 5,000 volumes, of which one-third is modern fiction. A large proportion of the non-fiction is antiquated, and technical works are completely lacking. Modern non-fiction, of the Peter Fleming—John Gunther type, is well represented however.

The building comprises two very large rooms, of which one is a reading-room, and its position is good, being over the main street of the town.

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For some months the management has been seeking support from the authorities in order to make it a free and well-equipped library for the Services. So far their efforts have had no success.

Meanwhile, as the number of subscribing members is small, there is no money for new books, the staff is voluntary, and consequently the library is sinking into a state of chaos.

What now, Captain Margesson?

The County Scene

Mary Piggott

A FRIEND recently accosted me with the indignant demand: "Who decides which books shall be put into the Reference Department, and for what reasons?" She had been unable to borrow for home reading John Hilton's *Are trade unions obstructive?* (Gollancz, 5s.), and Beatrice and Sidney Webb's *Industrial democracy* (Longmans, 21s.), from the city of B—— Public Library, because these books were "chained" to the reference shelves. The only reason I could suggest was that the B—— Librarian must be a capitalist, who preferred the *status quo*! There is at least no occasion for this set-back to county library borrowers; apart from quick reference books and works needed for consultation by the technical staff every book in a county library stock can be available for home reading by borrowers living in any part of the county. There remains, however, the real drawback that specialized books are not always to hand when they are wanted, though delay in obtaining the books can be minimized by direct loans between branches and by maintaining a students' section at the library headquarters to house single copies and highly technical works, which may be posted to branch librarians or straight to the borrowers if they live outside the areas served by branches and returned to the students' library when finished with. Many counties now have a frequent delivery service between headquarters and branches, either by their own van, as in Middlesex, or by carrier.

The real problem of reference work in county libraries is presented by the reader who wants a certain item of information at once and needs the help of a trained librarian in finding it. Obviously the question of expense rules out the maintenance of a large stock of purely reference books, such as the D.N.B. or files of periodicals, at each of, say, twenty branches (and even this would be of no use to the reader living beyond easy reach of a branch), although a branch library serving a large and highly

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concentrated population should be endowed as generously as possible with reference works of this nature. The smaller branches should have at least the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, *Who's who*, *Whitaker's almanack*, *Everyman's own lawyer*, dictionaries, a local directory, a gazetteer, and the Reference catalogue up to date. Apart from borrowers, the staff are handicapped if they have no means of checking authors' names or subjects which they have not previously come across—any doubts on these are better resolved before the requisition is sent to headquarters than after it has been returned with a query.

When the county library headquarters is also the central library for an urban area there is no reason why a postal and telephone information service for the county should not be developed there similar to that of the Croydon or Hampstead Boroughs. But where a county headquarters is situated in the same town as an efficient urban library stocked with reference books and periodicals (which supply the only up-to-date information on many technical subjects), it should not be considered improper by either library for the urban library to maintain and advertise a postal and telephone reference service for the whole county. The county library might help in staffing this service. Part-time work in a reference library would be a welcome break in the monotony of routine work for a head-quarter's assistant and would enable him to keep fresh his acquaintance with works of reference.

From time to time a county library report has announced the decision to form a "special collection," but in view of the facilities for borrowing offered by the development of regional bureaux and the National Central Library "except where there is some inherent or continuous demand it is doubtful whether any library to-day is justified in building and maintaining a special collection."¹ Local history and local industries are, of course, legitimate subjects for specialization. This need not mean that county libraries are continually borrowers rather than lenders in these national schemes. Counties with scattered centres of population of necessity duplicate the more popular books and also supply sets of books to more classes and drama groups than do libraries serving a single community. Counties which have developed these services will therefore be able to supply from their larger stocks class requisitions for which town libraries, with their lesser need, will have insufficient provision. Practical "communism," in fact!

In my next article I should like to discuss library committees, and should be glad to receive any views on this subject at the County Branch Library, Ormskirk, Lancs.

¹ E. J. Carnell. *County libraries*, p. 105.

The Library Assistant Students' Problems

THE DECEMBER EXAMINATIONS

ELEMENTARY

A. J. WALFORD

AN excellent set of papers. The student who failed to do justice to them has surely only himself to blame.

ENGLISH LITERARY HISTORY

Q. 1 (on the life and works of Chaucer) is one which, unfortunately, invites a machine-made answer and the sharp division of Chaucer's literary development into three water-tight periods. ("Chaucer now turned to his second period" is how one candidate memorably put it.)

Q. 2 (Carlyle as historian, biographer, essayist, and translator)—a question without guile for those suitably armed, but not to be bluffed through by those whose knowledge of, say, *Frederick the great* and *The French revolution* belongs to history rather than to Carlyle.

Q. 3. "Give a list of the principal tragedies of Shakespeare and state what you know of one of them." A question which almost everyone must have attempted. To have seen Shakespeare acted is a definite boon here.

Q. 4. "Whom do you consider to be the most famous of Scottish poets? Give reasons for your choice." Few candidates will probably have considered the claims of Dunbar, those of Scott and Burns being much nearer their own day. While the fame of both is international, Scott's influence on continental historical fiction belongs to the realm of the novel, whereas Burns has a world reputation as folk-poet and lyricist. He stands out among the poets of the Romantic Age, poets who, on the whole, took themselves and their work rather seriously.

Q. 5 (on the chief dramatists of the twentieth century)—another gift to the theatre-goer. Shaw, Barrie, Galsworthy, Somerset Maugham, Noel Coward, James Bridie, A. A. Milne, as well as the Irish-theatre proper—J. M. Synge, Sean O'Casey, and St. John Ervine—should form the chief figures in this survey.

Q. 6 (on the importance in English literature of *Areopagitica*, *Lyrical ballads*, Johnson's *Dictionary*) is a type of question which should be set more often than it is: it puts the candidate on his mettle as appreciator. *Areopagitica*, advocating a free press, has perennial interest, not least today and to us professionally. In the *Lyrical ballads*, Wordsworth's Preface is one thing, and the poems by Wordsworth and Coleridge, another. There is a mistaken tendency to regard many of Wordsworth's poems as being a violation of his theory of poetic diction. This is not the

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case: what Wordsworth advocated was a *correspondence* of matter and style, and death to artificiality. A simple theme demanded simple treatment; a noble theme, on the other hand, required an elevated style, of which *Tintern abbey* (in this collection) is an example. The influence of the *Ancient mariner* on nineteenth-century versification should also be mentioned.

Johnson's *Dictionary* is really an attempt to stabilize the English language, then believed to be at its literary zenith. The immense labours of Johnson, aided by six hacks, over a period of seven years, deserves contrast with the dictionary of the French Academy, which took a century to compile and involved a prodigious thumbing of lexicographers. Johnson's use of quotations—it was the first dictionary to be read "with pleasure"—and his brush with Chesterfield both merit a line.

Q. 7. "Give details of the information to be found in Manly and Rickert's *Contemporary British literature*"—a test for those who should have used this recommended text-book, but a little dull, no doubt, in the answering.

Q. 8 (on Dryden and his satirical works). *Not* a question of the "life and works" order, but one in which a brief introduction on the movements of the age—political, religious and literary—is almost essential.

Q. 9 (authors of 10 titles)—a well-chosen group.

Second Paper

Q. 1. "What is a main entry? Give examples of five forms that it may take." A matter for wise choice. The candidate who attempted Q. 3 (examples of how to catalogue a map, a musical score, a work issued by an institution, and a collection of short stories by different authors) would do well to avoid duplicating his examples. Added entries and references would appear to be required in Q. 3, and the collection of short stories may or may not have an editor.

Q. 2 (on definition of topic, form, notation, common form subdivision, relative index) touches the student at a vulnerable point—definition. But the terms in this case are basic to an understanding of classification. The first two might usefully be contrasted, and examples given where possible.

Q. 4 (on stocktaking) calls for little comment. Is the student who works in a library where no stocktaking is done debarred from answering this question?—Surely not, provided his discussion is adequately supported by facts gleaned from various sources.

Q. 5. "Describe the processes through which a book passes before it reaches the public. Which, if any, might usefully be eliminated?" The first part is perfectly simple, with the process stamp as its summary.

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Economy in processes rather than elimination of any one or several seems the wisest policy. Collation might be confined to non-fiction or valuable books; stamping might be reduced to title-page and last page, relying on the binder's die stamp for chief means of identification. Instead of the accessions register, a summary stock book plus invoices endorsed with accession numbers might be adopted. Cataloguing of juvenile non-fiction under subject only and, more drastic still, substitution of shelf register, Whitaker's *Reference catalogue* and Baker's *Guide to best fiction* for fiction author and title catalogues are other possibilities. The shelf register itself can always be merged into the classified catalogue, saving duplication, while economies in card entries are various.

Third Paper

Q. 1. "Describe the organization of the particular type of library in which you are employed . . ." This question concerns organization, not merely administration, and deals with such matters as library authority, delegation of powers, and the vital trinity—committee, library, and staff (very roughly analogous to Parliament, Prime Minister, and Civil Service, with Cabinet Ministers represented as departmental chiefs). The spheres of librarian and committee need to be outlined, and a brief indication given of the executive side—the running and supervision of departments, and systematization of staff work. Co-ordination of departments and branches also warrants emphasis.

Q. 2. "What are the principal reasons for the absence of books from the open shelves, apart from their being 'out'?" A practical type of question, covering books at binding, in storage, on exhibition, reserved, "missing," and books which for several reasons (sometimes rather childish) have to be applied for "by personal application to the librarian."

Q. 3 (on the lending of reference library books) involves discussion of already existing facilities for loan of reference books through regional bureaux: why draw a distinction between outside borrowers and one's own in favour of the former?

Q. 4 (on bookbinding problems and continuance of the war). A very present problem, due not only to shortage of materials and labour, and consequent delays, but also to the poor paper on which books are being produced. Are some of them worth binding? Value of reinforcing and a home bindery for advance repairs should be considered.

Q. 5. "Discuss the system of fines and other penalties for the detention of books beyond the prescribed period." Fines are to be viewed not as penalties *per se*, but as one means of securing the quick return of books. Contrast, in this respect, the practice of Manchester and Dagenham, where suspension of tickets takes the place of fines.

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CLASSIFICATION

STANLEY G. SAUNDERS

The theory paper was somewhat uneven, being a mixture of hackneyed questions and two quite original ones having a special bearing on candidates' studies. All but about three questions could have been answered from text-books. The Practical Paper¹ consisted largely of topical titles, providing many points on which decisions had to be made owing to the absence of exact places for these new topics in the current schedules. At least one title had appeared before, as long ago as December 1937, but this time without the annotation.

Q. 1 asked students to illustrate Jevons' statement that "all logical inference involves classification." Once more the examiners' concern with correlation of properties is emphasized by this question, and no difficulty should have been experienced by candidates who had mastered this principle thoroughly.

Q. 2 depended entirely on the reading of a specific text-book, asking as it did for definitions of Richardson's Laws of Likeness, Evolution, and his Historical Law.

Q. 3. This was a straightforward question on what a few years ago would have been posed as the Canons of Classification. Candidates who had read and grasped the earlier chapters of Phillips and Sayers, and who added a dash of Bliss to give variety should have obtained a satisfying mark.

Q. 4, asking for an explanation of the difference between Co-ordination and Subordination of classes with examples, could have been readily answered by a comparison of the treatment given to the applied sciences by Dewey and Brown, showing how an eye to convenience caused the former to follow the principle of Co-ordination, while a strict adherence to logic made the latter follow the theory of Subordination.² It should have been pointed out that both methods may be used at different places in the same scheme according to which method will give the greater convenience to the user of the particular part of the scheme.

¹ Suggested placings: A.355.474. B.380.124. C.614.8. D.923.273. E.338.2 (rather than 355.24; compare T). F.025.7. G.336.2. H.330.973. I.379.11. J.623.9. K.321.04. L.362.7 (presumed chiefly to affect children). M.323.44. N.301. O.330.19355. P.614.8. Q.347. R.358.3. S.350 (if English, 354.42). T.338.—A. J. W.

² Mr. Saunders probably means the reverse of this. Dewey's notation makes subordination a feature of his schedules, whereas Brown's logical approach emphasizes the value of co-ordination. As Bliss says, "The principle of collocation of related subjects he [Brown] apprehended, but he overlooked its relation to subordination."—A. J. W.

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Q. 5 called for candidates' opinion regarding the principal feature of a perfect notation. Expressed in this way students were given the opportunity of expressing their own ideas. It was essential to have flexibility, ability to indicate order of the schedules, and ease in reading, writing, and remembering. Further by the terms of the question it was necessary to give examples from actual book schemes which it was considered exemplified candidates' ideas of perfection.

Q. 6 was, in effect, a practical question on the pros and cons of close v. broad classification. If candidates had mastered these no difficulty should have been experienced in drafting a set of rules indicating the extent to which subdivision should be carried in applying any of the standard schemes to a new general library of 40,000 volumes. Again students had an opportunity to express their own ideas, but it was necessary to frame the answer as a code of precisely worded rules.

Q. 7 was probably left severely alone. It asked for a criticism of the placing of a specific subject (Classification) in Dewey, Brown, and Library of Congress. Although it was the subject of the examination, it is doubtful whether many of the candidates could have stated where classification appears in any of the three schemes.³ Brown has it placed conveniently subordinated to Logic, and in fair proximity to General Science and the Sciences generally. Dewey gives it an uncomfortable place between Ontology and Cosmology, separated from Logic and the Sciences, but subordinated to Methodology which is arguably correctly placed early in Metaphysics. (If a copy of the Library of Congress schedules had been available some light might have been shed on that scheme's placing.)

Q. 8. Any student interested in the arrangement of the literature of his profession who had compared Brown's arrangement of Library economy and Bibliography at Class M with Dewey's scattered treatment of the book arts at 010, 020, 090, and 655 should have had some interesting comparisons to make, and should have found it simple to justify Brown's placing, and to illustrate his all-round convenient grouping of all topics relevant to the book arts.

Q. 9. This question could not have been satisfactorily answered from text-books, but necessitated an actual handling of the Library of Congress schedules and indexes.

³ The placing of "Library Classification" in the three schemes mentioned is also of interest and perhaps deserves a short paragraph (025.4 in Dewey, under Z in Library of Congress, and omitted as a separate heading in Brown's M.900).—A. J. W.

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CATALOGUING

A. J. WALFORD

Theoretical Paper

Contained nothing exceptionable, and rang only slight changes on previous papers. For the most part, a test of text-book knowledge.

Q. 1 dealt with the superiority of the dictionary over the classified catalogue for entries under locality, etc. It is useful to tabulate under a given country leading dictionary subheadings—*Antiquities, Commerce and trade, Constitution, Description and travel, Economic history, Foreign relations, History, Politics, Religious life, Statistics, Statutes*, and show how these are distributed over the classification and therefore the classified catalogue. The same applies, in smaller degree, to such subjects as INSURANCE.

Q. 2, on the history and influence of the Anglo-American Code, gave the student a little scope for originality, although probably few mentioned the London Union Catalogue rules and the Northern Regional Bureau supplementary rules as modern adaptations.

Q. 4, on alphabetizing systems, should have provided little difficulty to those who have read Dr. Dickie's articles in the *Library association record*.

Q. 5, on the types of library using (a) name catalogue, and (b) classified catalogue, is a variation of the familiar question on the needs of university as opposed to public library cataloguing.

For the rest, Q. 7 (procedure in organizing the printing of a quarterly library bulletin) is adequately covered in Sharp, while Q. 7 (cataloguing of incunabula and maps) and Q. 8 (form entries in a dictionary catalogue) are familiar to most of us.

Q. 9, as is customary, begins "Assign subject headings . . ." One wonders how many students attempt this type of question, decidedly easier to mark than to answer, requiring as it does a ready acquaintance with subject headings and the syndetic principle. The following main subject headings are suggested: (a) MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, *Calculations and tables*. (b) INDIA, *Foreign population, British*. (c) CORONATIONS. (d) DANCE BANDS. (e) THERAPEUTICS. (f) CRIME AND CRIMINALS. (g) PHOTOGRAPHY, EXPERIMENTAL. (h) BIRDS, *Migration*. (i) FARM MACHINERY. (j) UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF.

Practical Paper

No annotations were required, this enabling the candidate to do more justice to the actual entries. Taken as a whole, the paper was probably less difficult than on recent occasions. Several, including the works on the Tolpuddle Martyrs, *Daily life in ancient Rome*, and *Studies of the*

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natural history of Ceylon, were largely a test in subject headings. Specific entry under TOLPUDDLE MARTYRS (1834), with reference from TRADE UNIONISM, LABOUR, etc., would seem to meet the case of the first; the last-mentioned appears to deal only with animals, in which case ZOOLOGY: *Ceylon* should cover the book, with analytical entry under ELEPHANTS.

The title of the first example ran to over nine lines and must have caused heart-burnings: it certainly necessitated judicious pruning. There should be no difficulty in selecting the appropriate subject entries with such a wealth of vocabulary provided. Examples 4 and 7 were both society series publications and should have been given added entries accordingly. In the case of *The Religious opinions of Milton, Locke, and Newton*, subject entry will be UNITARIANISM, with analyticals for the three persons named. The *Medieval Latin word-list* (No. 5) has its main entry under BRITISH ACADEMY, the body actually responsible for the book's existence, with added entries for the three editors. No. 9, *The Silent cities*, on the other hand, should be entered under its compiler, with added entry GREAT BRITAIN, *Imperial War Graves Commission*.

Finally, No. 6, *The French yellow book*, perfectly straightforward until one alights on the misprint—"negociation"; when transcribed, this word should be scored under with three dots.

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